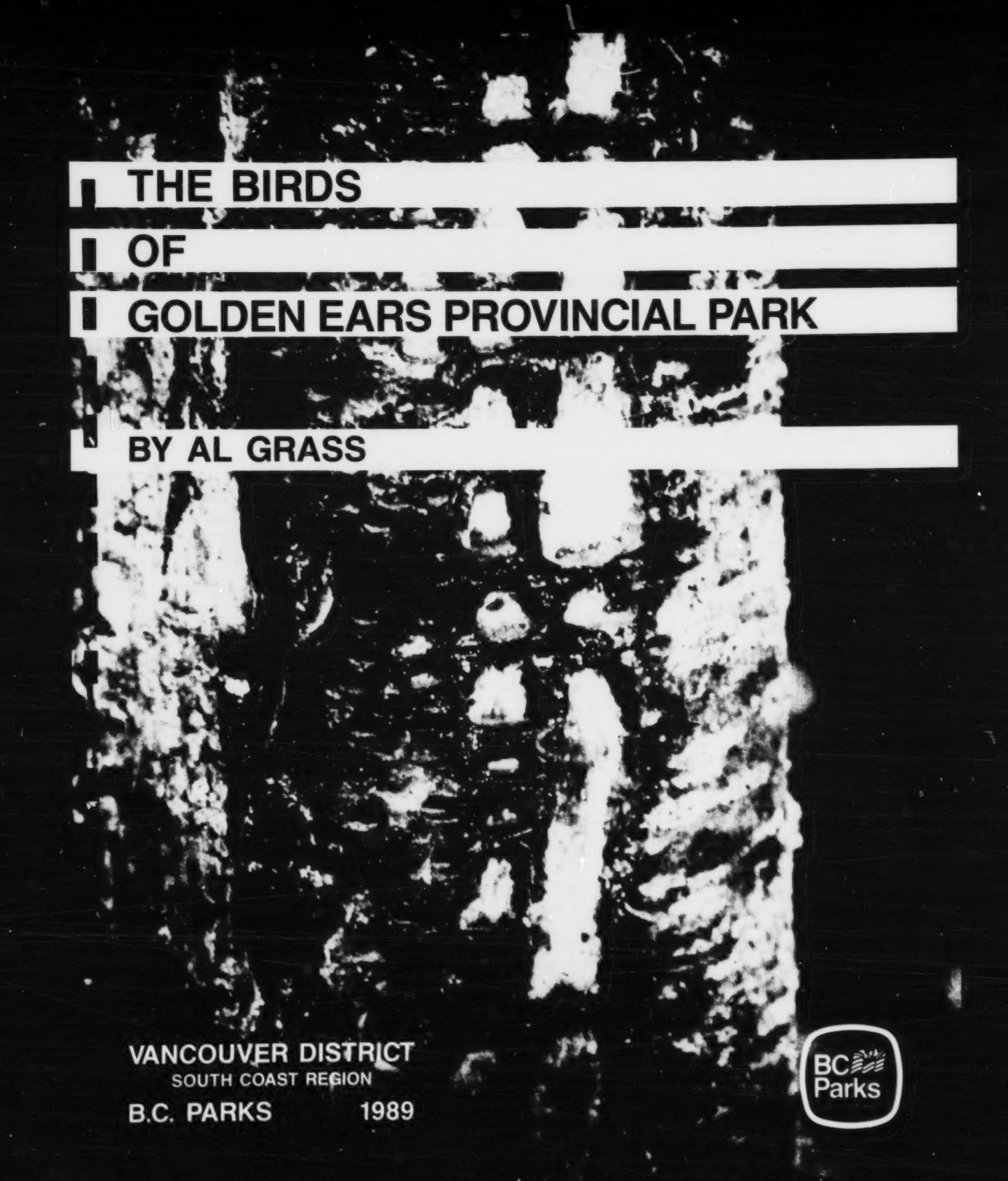

THE BIRDS OF GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

BY AL GRASS

VANCOUVER DISTRICT
SOUTH COAST REGION
B.C. PARKS 1989

BC Parks

BIRD STUDIES

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

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BC Parks, 1989

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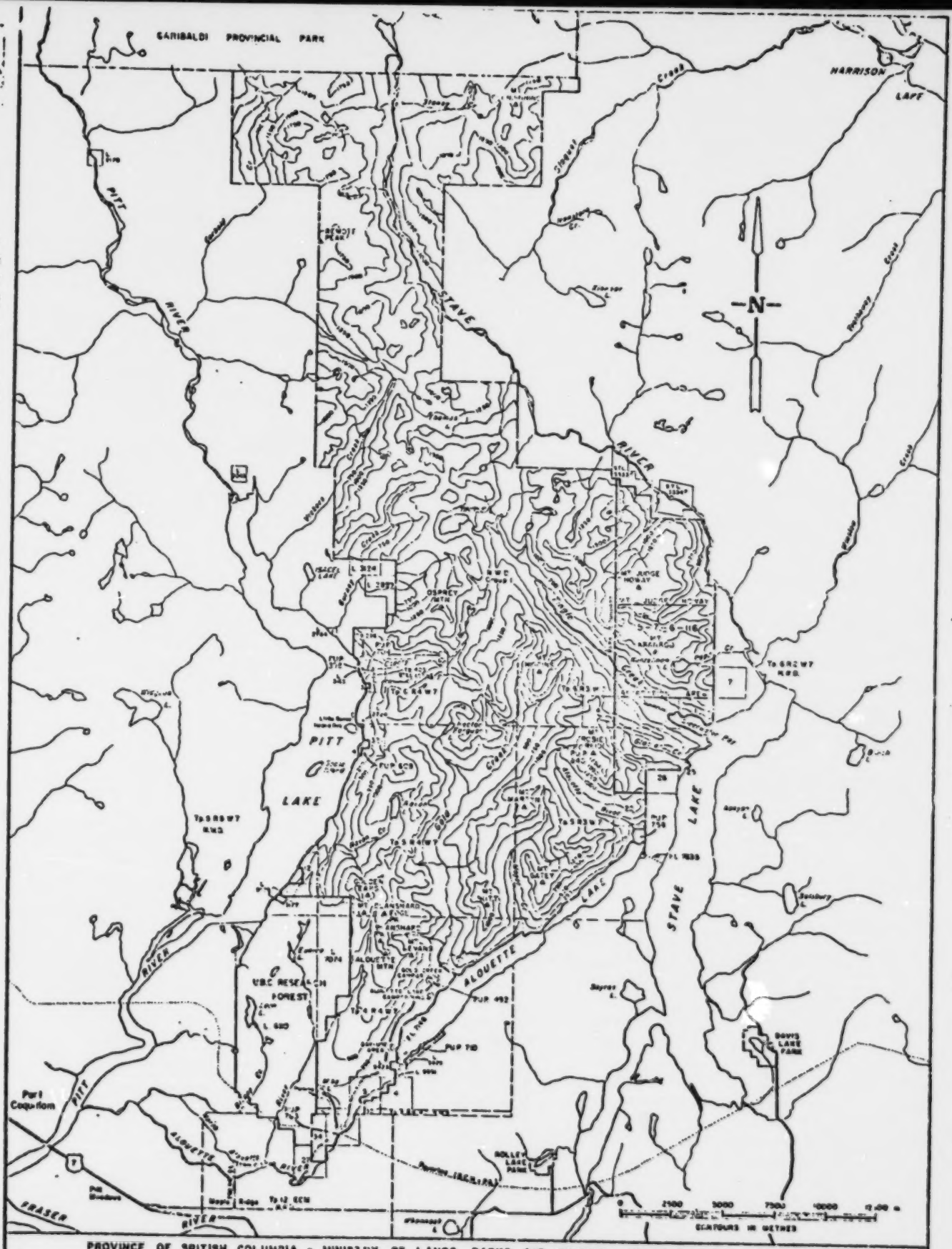

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING - PARKS BRANCH - VICTORIA, B.C.

DATE	REVISED BY	CHECKED BY	REVISION
JULY 22/80	K.M.	D.C.	Trapline & Water

REDUCED SIZE

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

FILE No: 2-7-6-106	DRAWN BY: G BRAATEN	DATE: NOV/79	DWG. No. 7-6-106
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BIRDS OF GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK
1963 - 1989

PREFACE

This report summarizes bird records for Golden Ears Provincial Park - 1963 - 1989, and consists of a checklist, annotated list, a summary of sightings by key locations (with brief notes on habitat), daily lists by areas for 1988, and special reports.

Golden Ears Provincial Park is a 54,000 hectare area of rugged terrain, most of it inaccessible. This has meant that most of the observations have come from lowland areas, largely the Alouette and Gold Creek Valleys.

The park has undergone significant changes since the publication of Douglas Dow's report in 1963. The forest is now more than sixty years of age since logging and the great fire of 1931. This is coupled with the fact that visitor use has increased significantly over the past decades. Birds once "common" such as the Rufous-sided Towhee and Yellow Warbler are now rarely seen. In the case of the towhee, the reason may well be that plant succession has moved from the pioneering shade-intolerant types to the shade-tolerant species. Birds characteristic of the plant associations, change with them. The Yellow Warbler is a species of riparian habitat in the park and its decline cannot be as easily explained. Birds which have increased, include the Steller's Jay, Northwestern Crow, American Robin and White-crowned Sparrow; all are associated with human activity such as camping and picnicking.

A total of 139 species have been reported from the park. There are no rare or endangered species that use the park regularly, or breed here. Having said this, old growth timber in places such as Alouette Mountain, need to be accurately surveyed for the Spotted Owl (they have been found in similar habitat in the upper Seymour Valley of North Vancouver, BC).

The two needs that have been identified as a result of this work are:

1) more data is needed from the Park's back country to determine the status of species, such as the White-tailed Ptarmigan, and to establish whether or not the Spotted Owl occurs here;
2) to obtain a better idea of breeding species and their densities.

Observers are encouraged to keep accurate records - not only of the usual data, but also written descriptions of rare, casual, and accidental species. A number of very interesting records had to be called into question for lack of field notes.

A word of thanks to all those naturalists who kept records and notes and to Douglas Dow, whose 1963 work formed the basis of this report.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Golden Ears Provincial Park is a vast rugged landscape of glacier sculpted mountains and valleys cloaked with dark green forests. Official park brochures describe its location as:

> "...about 48 kilometres east of Vancouver on the north side of the Fraser River. From its southern boundary near Maple Ridge, the park extends 55 kilometres northward through mountain wilderness to the southern boundary of Garibaldi Provincial Park. The two park areas together once formed a much larger Garibaldi Park. Travel between the two present parks is blocked by an almost impenetrable barrier of rugged mountain peaks and steep-sided valley."

Much of the park is forested, with three biogeoclimatic zones represented here: The Coastal Western Hemlock Zone (CWHZ), Coastal Mountain Hemlock Zone (CMHZ), and the Alpine Tundra Zone (ATZ). Within these broad categories are ecotones and various site specific plant associations which exert a strong influence on bird numbers and distribution in the park.

Because most of the park is inaccessible, its natural history is largely unknown, especially the bird life. The only areas for which substantial data are available are the Alouette and Gold Creek Valleys. For example, the fact that there is only one White-tailed Ptarmigan record is probably more a function of the remoteness of their habitat, rather than the true status of the bird.

The Alouette and Gold Creek Valleys are both broad u-shaped glacially generated landscape features. The Alouette Valley contains the ten kilometre Alouette Lake, while the Gold Creek Valley features a typically youthful mountain stream. Both valleys have extensive forested outwash and floodplain, and lie wholly with the CWHZ with Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) and Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata) as the dominant coniferous tree species. These valleys were logged extensively in the 1920's and in 1931 (Ministry of Environment and Parks, 1987) a "disastrous fire swept through the valley...". The second growth forest which

subsequently regenerated was composed of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous. Ross[1] (1982) says:

> "...the composition of a second growth forest is somewhat dependant on the composition of the seed bank following the catastrophe....All things being equal, it is the species with seed or propagules of highest dispersive capacity what first colonize a burned-over area. For example, fireweed with its plumed, wind-blown seeds is thought to have been amongst the earliest flowering plants to recolonize the Alouette Lake area (Butt, 1976). Hemlock has an advantage over Douglas Fir in that regard (Butt, 1976), which may help to explain the preponderance of the former in the second growth forest here."

Within this general picture are many site specific plant associations of special importance in understanding the park's bird life. In better drained sites Douglas Fir does very well and in outwash areas the alluvial fans deciduous species such as Bigleaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum) and Cottonwood (Populus balsamifera, var. trichocarpa) flourish. Roadsides and forest edges are populated with Red Alder (Alnus rubra) and Salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis). Whether from logging or from the fire (or fires), we now have a forest that is about 65 years old, where alders are rapidly reaching the end of their lives and hemlock is taking over. This is a very important factor when considering changes which have occurred in the park's bird life since the first serious studies were done in 1963.

The pioneer study on the park's bird life was done by Douglas Dow in 1963. He began in late spring and continued working until late August. In the early 1970's and until the time of writing, park naturalists kept records, as time permitted. From 1984 to 1989, the author decided to make a special effort to keep detailed and accurate observations year round[1]. The original park checklist (Grass and Ross, 1980) totalled 119 species and was based to some extend on verbal records (hearsay), something which is now regretted. The present account has adopted very strict criteria

1. Ross, M., 1982. Fire Succession (in Golden Ears Provincial Park). BC Parks. Unpublished report.

for the inclusion or rejection of species. Some species on the "original" list have been given hypothetical status until evidence is found to authenticate them. The present effort is in every sense a preliminary one (for reasons already noted) but represents a good picture of the park's lowland bird life. As time goes by, more species will be added and the status of the species will change. Perhaps one day, we may even add Spotted Owl to the list!

SUGGESTED BIRDING AREAS IN GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

Mike Lake

Mike Lake is located two kilometres from Park Headquarters, this small picturesque lake with its shrubby fringe of Sweet Gale and Hardhack is surrounded by a mixed forest of alder, cottonwood, and hemlock. It is by far the best birding area in the park with mid-May to mid-June as the best time. Species regularly seen in the summer include the Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. Approximately ninety species have been recorded here.

Gold Creek Valley (including the mouth of Gold Creek)

This is also a fine birding area; especially in May and June. Specialty birds include Black and Vaux's Swift, American Dipper, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Common Mergansers often gather at the mouth of the creek and it is a good place to watch Osprey fishing. Approximately, seventy-four species have been recorded in this area of the park.

Spirea Bog Nature Area

This is a small roadside bog area with a nature trail and boardwalk. The months of May and June are best but it is a pleasant walk at any time of the year. Common Yellowthroat, Cedar Waxwing and Song Sparrow are regular here. The only Lincoln's Sparrow records for the park come from this site. Forty-three species have been seen here.

Campgrounds

Ornithologically, the two campgrounds are quite different from each other: Gold Creek is more homogeneous forest of Western Hemlock, while Alouette Campground has a mixture of coniferous/deciduous and

is a much better birding area. In the summer, warblers such as Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray are common in the tree tops along with Warbling Vireos. Steller's Jays often visit campsites in search of handouts. Approximately fifty-four species have been recorded in the campground areas of the park.

Alouette Mountain Trail

This eleven kilometre (five hour) hike is the best access in the park to sub-alpine. For many hikers, the highlight of the trail is the old growth stand of mountain hemlock and yellow cedar near Lake Beautiful. The return trip to Alouette Mountain can take up to ten hours. The area is not well known ornithologically but Townsend's Warbler, Blue Grouse, and Red Crossbill are commonly seen here. Keep a sharp watch for soaring raptors, especially in fall migration. Approximately forty species have been seen along this trail, but this number is probably low.

Alouette Lake Day-Use Area (South Beach)

Essentially, this is the main picnic area on Alouette Lake, with lawn and exotic trees. White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows are seen here, especially on spring migration. Rufous Hummingbirds are attracted to the yellow flowers of the oregon grape in front of the main washrooms/changehouse complex. Watch for swifts and swallows flying over the lake. Ospreys often hunt just off the boat launch, a ten minute walk from the day-use area. This area has tallied forty species.

HABITATS

HABITATS

The most productive habitats in the park are those associated with water, such as Mike Lake and Gold Creek. Riparian willow, red-osier dogwood and nine-bark thickets attract migrating warblers. Open water is utilized by a variety of waterfowl including Bufflehead, Goldeneyes and the Mallard, as well as the fish-eating Osprey. Shallower water habitats provide feeding opportunities for herons and kingfishers. Rather specialized aquatic habitats are streams where dippers may be found.

Forest habitats may be classified as predominantly hemlock or mixed deciduous/coniferous, the latter being the more productive. Here, one can find warblers, vireos and Ruffed Grouse. Where the forest is more uniformly coniferous there are fewer but characteristic species such as Red Crossbill, Blue Grouse, and Townsend's Warbler. Birds such as the Winter Wren and Varied Thrush are widely distributed in all forest types. There are a number of species which may be termed "edge effect" species, including the Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and Rufous Hummingbird. Altitudinal zonation is clearly observed in species such as thrushes, with Swainson's Thrush of lowlands being replaced at higher elevations by the Hermit Thrush. Man-made habitats such as campgrounds and picnic areas attract crows, European Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds, as one might expect. Planted lawns appear to have increased the numbers of American Robins, but perhaps they are now more visible.

From what little we know of the highest mountain areas (Alpine Tundra Zone) there is habitat for White-tailed Ptarmigan and Golden Eagle.

It is worth noting that in 1931 (some say 1933) the "devastating" fire that swept through the Alouette and Gold Creek Valleys, burning up "thousands" of acres of timber. Since the fire occurred, more than fifty years ago, many of the pioneer tree species such as Red Alder (Alnus rubra) are reaching maturity. It is evident that these shade intolerant species will be replaced by shade tolerant species (conifers) and that this will have a marked effect on the bird life here. These changes have already been observed in species such as the MacGillivray's Warbler and

Rufous-sided Towhee (both are less common)[2]. It will be interesting for someone, in the decades ahead, to observe further changes in the bird life of the Park as a result of plant succession.

2. Based on comments of Douglas Dow (1963). See reference list.

FAMILIES AND GENERA OF BIRDS

FOUND IN

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

CHARACTERISTIC FAMILIES AND GENERA*
OF THE PARK'S BIRDS

FAMILY	GENERA	EXAMPLE
Gaviidae	Gavia	Common Loon
Podicipedidae	Podiceps	Horned Grebe
	Podilymbus	Pied-billed Grebe
Ardeidae	Ardea	Great Blue Heron
Anatidae	Cygnus	Trumpeter Swan
	Branta	Canada Goose
	Anas	Mallard
	Aix	Wood Duck
	Bucephala	Common Goldeneye
	Mergus	Common Merganser
	Aythya	Ring-necked Duck
Accipitridae	Accipiter	Cooper's Hawk
	Buteo	Red-tailed Hawk
	Haliaeetus	Bald Eagle
	Pandion	Osprey
Phasianidae	Bonasa	Ruffed Grouse
	Dendragapus	Blue Grouse
	Lagopus	White-tailed Ptarmigan
Scolopacidae	Actitis	Spotted Sandpiper
	Tringa	Solitary Sandpiper
Laridae	Larus	Glaucous-winged Gull
Columbidae	Columba	Band-tailed Pigeon
Strigidae	Otus	Western Screech-Owl
	Bubo	Great Horned Owl
	Strix	Barred Owl
	Glaucidium	Northern Pygmy Owl
	Aegolius	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Caprimulgidae	Chordeiles	Common Nighthawk
Apodidae	Cypseloides	Black Swift
	Chaetura	Vaux's Swift

FAMILY	GENERA	EXAMPLE
Trochilidae	Selasphorus	Rufous Hummingbird
Alcedinidae	Ceryle	Belted Kingfisher
Picidae	Sphyrapicus	Red-breasted Sapsucker
	Picoides	Hairy Woodpecker
	Colaptes	Northern Flicker
	Dryocopus	Pileated Woodpecker
Tyrannidae	Contopus	Western Wood Peewee
	Empidonax	Pacific-Slope Flycatcher
Hirundinidae	Tachycineta	Violet-green Swallow
	Stelgidopteryx	N. Rough-winged Swallow
	Hirundo	Barn Swallow
Corvidae	Perisoreus	Gray Jay
	Cyanocitta	Steller's Jay
	Corvus	Common Raven
Paridae	Parus	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Cinclidae	Cinclus	American Dipper
Sittidae	Sitta	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Certhiidae	Certhia	Brown Creeper
Troglodytidae	Troglodytes	Winter Wren
Muscicapidae	Regulus	Golden-crowned Kinglet
	Catharus	Swainson's Thrush
	Turdus	American Robin
	Ixoreus	Varied Thrush
Bombycillidae	Bombycilla	Cedar Waxwing
Sturnidae	Sturnus	European Starling
Vireonidae	Vireo	Warbling Vireo

FAMILY	GENERA	EXAMPLE
Emberizidae	Vermivora	Orange-crowned Warbler
	Dendroica	Gray-throated Warbler
	Oporornis	MacGillivray's Warbler
	Geothylypis	Common Yellow-throat
	Wilsonia	Wilson's Warbler
	Molothrus	Brown-headed Cowbird
	Piranga	Western Tanager
	Pheucticus	Black-headed Grosbeak
	Coccothraustes	Evening Grosbeak
	Carpodacus	Purple Finch
	Carduelis	Pine Siskin
	Loxia	Red Crossbill
	Pipilo	Rufous-sided Towhee
	Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
	Zonotrichia	White-crowned Sparrow
	Passerella	Fox Sparrow
	Melospiza	Song Sparrow

* Where the species belongs to a genus of which it is the sole representative in the park, it has been omitted. Only characteristic families and genera are listed here. This gives a good "ornithological profile" of the park.

CHECKLIST WITH REMARKS ON STATUS, ETC.

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

Legend:

C COMMON, almost always seen; large numbers (25-100 per day)
FC FAIRLY COMMON, moderate numbers (5-25 per day)
U UNCOMMON, often seen, but not every walk
R RARE, seen a few times during the year
Ca CASUAL, few records, to be expected
A ACCIDENTAL, one to two records for park; outside normal range

S SUMMER, may breed
W WINTER
M MIGRANT, fall and spring
r RESIDENT, probably breeds

(Adapted from A Checklist of the Birds of Lynn Canyon by Kevin Bell, Ecology Centre, North Vancouver)

This list is based largely on the records of Douglas Dow (1963) and naturalists, 1970 - 1987. Checklist order follows a Checklist of Vancouver Birds (1988 edition; Vancouver Natural History Society).

LOONS	
Common Loon	RM
GREBES	
Pied-billed Grebe	Rr
Horned Grebe	RW
HERONS	
American Bittern	Ca
Great Blue Heron	Ur
Green-backed Heron	Ca
SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS	
Trumpeter Swan	RW
Canada Goose	FCr
Wood Duck	Rr
Green-winged Teal	Ca
Mallard	Ur
American Wigeon	Ca
Ring-necked Duck	RW
Lesser Scaup	Ca
Harlequin Duck	CaS
Common Goldeneye	FCW
Bufflehead	UW, RS

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS (Cont)	
Hooded Merganser	Rr
Common Merganser	FCr
RAPTORS	
Turkey Vulture	Ca
Osprey	US
Bald Eagle	RS
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Rr
Cooper's Hawk	Ur
Northern Goshawk	Ca
Red-tailed Hawk	Ur
Golden Eagle	Ca
American Kestrel	Ca
Merlin	R
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS	
Ring-necked Pheasant	Ca
Blue Grouse	FCa
Ruffed Grouse	FCa
White-tailed Ptarmigan	Ca
RAILS	
Virginia Rail	Ca
American Coot	Ca
CRANES	
Sandhill Crane	Ca
SHOREBIRDS	
Killdeer	Ca
Spotted Sandpiper	FCS
Solitary Sandpiper	CaM
Common Snipe	Ca
GULLS	
Ring-billed Gull	Ca
Glaucous-winged Gull	U
DOVES AND PIGEONS	
Rock Dove	Ca
Band-tailed Pigeon	FCr
Mourning Dove	Ca
OWLS	
Western Screech-owl	Rr
Great Horned Owl	Rr
Northern Pygmy Owl	Rr

OWLS (Cont)	
Barred Owl	Rr
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Rr
GOATSUCKERS	
Common Nighthawk	RS
SWIFTS	
Black Swift	RS
Vaux's Swift	FCS
HUMMINGBIRDS	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	A
Rufous Hummingbird	CS
KINGFISHER	
Belted Kingfisher	FCr
WOODPECKERS	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	FCr
Downy Woodpecker	Rr
Hairy Woodpecker	FCr
Three-toed Woodpecker	Ca
Northern Flicker	Rr
Pileated Woodpecker	Rr
FLYCATCHERS	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	RS
Western Wood Peewee	RS
Willow Flycatcher	RS
Hammond's Flycatcher	FCS
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	CS
Eastern Kingbird	Ca
SWALLOWS	
Tree Swallow	FCS
Violet-green Swallow	FCS
N. Rough-winged Swallow	FCS
Barn Swallow	CS
Cliff Swallow	RS
CORVIDS	
Gray Jay	Rr
Steller's Jay	Cr
Northwestern Crow	FCr
Common Raven	Ur
TITMICE	
Black-capped Chickadee	Ur

TITMICE (Cont)	
Mountain Chickadee	Ca
Boreal Chickadee	A
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	FCR
Bushtit	RS
NUTHATCHES	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Ur
CREEPERS	
Brown Creeper	Ur
WRENS	
Bewick's Wren	RS
House Wren	A
Winter Wren	FCr
DIPPERS	
American Dipper	Ur
KINGLETS	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Cr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	FCM
THRUSHES	
Mountain Bluebird	CaM
Townsend's Solitaire	RS
Swainson's Thrush	CS
Hermit Thrush	FCS
Veery	Ca
American Robin	CS, Rr
Varied Thrush	Cr
PIPITS	
American Pipit	Ca
WAXWINGS	
Cedar Waxwing	FCS
SHRIKE	
Northern Shrike	Ca
STARLING	
European Starling	Us
VIREOS	
Solitary Vireo	RS
Hutton's Vireo	Rr
Warbling Vireo	FCS

VIREOS (Cont)	
Red-eyed Vireo	RS
WARBLERS	
Orange-crowned Warbler	FCS
Yellow Warbler	RS
Yellow-rumped Warbler	FCM, RS
Black-throated Gray Warbler	CS
Townsend's Warbler	FCS
Northern Waterthrush	A
MacGillivray's Warbler	RS
Common Yellowthroat	FCS
Wilson's Warbler	CM, FCS
FINCHES, BLACKBIRDS, SPARROWS	
Western Tanager	FCS
Black-headed Grosbeak	FCS
Rufous-sided Towhee	Rr
Chipping Sparrow	RS
Savannah Sparrow	RS
Fox Sparrow	RM
Song Sparrow	FCr
Lincoln's Sparrow	Ca
Golden-crowned Sparrow	UM
White-crowned Sparrow	FCS
Dark-eyed Junco	Cr
Red-winged Blackbird	RS
Western Meadowlark	Ca
Brewer's Blackbird	Ca
Brown-headed Cowbird	FCS
Pine Grosbeak	Ca
Purple Finch	Ur
House Finch	Ur
Red Crossbill	Cr
White-winged Crossbill	Ur
Common Redpoll	Ca
Pine Siskin	Cr
American Goldfinch	Rs
Evening Grosbeak	Cr

Revised: April, 1989

New Species: One Solitary Sandpiper - seen at close range off the Boardwalk, April 25, 1989.

Status: Dull greenish legs, back is dark grey, white-eye rings very noticeable, black on curve of wing, very strong. Bird was in breeding plumage. Listed as RaT (rare transient) on the Vancouver Checklist (Vancouver Natural History Society, 1988 edition).

AN ANNOTATED LIST
OF THE
BIRDS OF GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK
1963 - 1989

Common Loon (Gavia immer)
Status: Rare migrant. Spring migrant at Alouette, Mike and Pitt Lakes. May have nested on Alouette Lake in the early 1950s.

Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps)
Status: Resident. Last breeding record, August 1976. All sightings at Mike Lake. Feeding records include birds fishing for stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus) and a single record of an adult with a Rough-skinned Newt (Taricha granulosa).

Horned Grebe (Podiceps auritus)
Status: Rare Winter. Three records, all for Alouette Lake: February 22 and April 2, 1985, on April 17, 1988, a adult in breeding plumage was observed at the mouth of Gold Creek (very unusual sighting).

American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus)
Status: Casual. Two records for Mike Lake. Summer 1973 (no date) and May 17, 1980.

Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)
Status: Uncommon resident. Most records for one or two birds, Mike Lake, Spirea Nature Area and Gold Creek. A few records for Alouette Lake. Not known to nest in the park, but there is a large heronry in Pitt Meadows and several smaller ones around Maple Ridge.

Green-backed Heron (Butorides striatus)
Status: Casual. One record, June 16, 1984, seen flying across road near park entrance.

Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus buccinator)
Status: Rare winter. First confirmed record was November 12, 1987 (2 adults, 2 immatures) seen at Mike Lake. On December 5, 1987, four were seen flying over Alouette Lake.

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)
Status: Fairly common resident; breeds. First recorded in the park in 1975. Mr. William Mewhort, a former park employee recalls a pair being released on Alouette Lake in the late 1960s. Observed on Mike and Alouette Lake (from one to sixty individuals).

Wood Duck (Aix sponsa)
Status: Rare resident, breeds. Single birds and pairs at Mike Lake and Spirea Nature Trail pond. A female with three young was observed at Mike Lake in the summer of 1973.

Mallard Duck (Anas platyrhynchos)
Status: Uncommon resident, breeds. All records are for Mike Lake. Seen in small numbers (one to four). Broods appear in May.

American Wigeon (Anas americana)
Status: Hypothetical. Original checklist status "rare winter" was based on hearsay. Details of sightings are not available. It is to be expected here, since it is a common wintering species in Pitt Meadows.

Ring-necked Duck (Aythya collaris)
Status: Rare winter. All records of sightings are at Mike Lake, usually single birds.

Lesser Scaup (A. affinis)
Status: Casual. Two records, both at Mike Lake. October 13, 1987, two males and one female. April 13, 1987, a pair was spotted.

Harlequin Duck (Histrionicus histrionicus)
Status: Unclear. Two records: on August 7, 1972, a "group" was seen at the mouth of Gold Creek, and two were reported from the Spirea Nature Trail pond on June 2, 1975.

Common Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)
Status: Fairly common, winter. Seen on Mike and Alouette Lakes in small numbers (one to six birds). Arrives in October; leaves by mid-April.

Bufflehead (B. albeola)
Status: Uncommon winter, breeds. Seen on Mike and Alouette Lakes. Single breeding record, female with four young on Mike Lake, May 21, 1978.

Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus)
Status: Rare winter, breeds. All records are at Mike Lake. On June 1, 1976, a female was seen with eleven young, a female was seen flying from out of a cavity, June 11, 1987.

Common Merganser (Mergus merganser)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Records for Mike, Alouette and Pitt Lakes. On November 16, 1987, a flock of twenty-six was seen at the mouth of Gold Creek on Alouette Lake.

Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)
Status: Casual. Two records. May 20, 1963, and May 11, 1980 - both at Mike Lake.

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
Status: Uncommon summer, breeds. Seen on Mike, Alouette and Pitt Lakes. Arrives about mid-April, leaving by August. First recorded nesting on Alouette Lake in 1976; one pair have successfully raised young most years since then, including 1987 and 1988.

Bald Eagle (Haliaetus leucocephalus)
Status: Uncommon resident. One to three birds seen at various locations in the park, and in every month.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (accipiter striatus)
Status: Rare migrant (spring and fall). Records for Alouette campground, Mike Lake, Park Entrance and Park Headquarters

Cooper's Hawk (A. cooperii)
Status: Rare resident. Most records late spring to mid-summer, a few winter records.

Northern Goshawk (A. gentilis)
Status: Casual. One record, an adult male was seen on Panorama Ridge, Golden Ears Trail, July 17, 1980.

Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)
Status: Uncommon resident. Records for powerline right of way, Mike Lake, Park Headquarters, Gold Creek Valley and South Beach.

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Status: Casual. Three records: October 19, 1984, one soaring over Evans Peak; January 21, 1985, one seen over the ridge to the west of Evans Peak; April 27, 1989, one adult at Park Headquarters, mobbed by a raven.

American Kestrel (Falco sparverius)
Status: Casual. One record, Alouette Campground, July 26, 1963.

Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Status: Casual. One record, Mike Lake, June 7, 1984.

Ring-necked Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)
Status: Casual. A male was seen at Mike Lake from April 2 to April 24, 1979. Another male was seen in the same area, May 6, 1980. Both probably wandered here from farmland just outside the park.

Blue Grouse (Dendragapus obscurus)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Widely distributed throughout the park from the valleys to sub-alpine. "Hooting" usually begins in early April.

Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Seen throughout the lowlands in mixed deciduous/coniferous habitats. Food items recorded include: salmonberry, dandelion seeds, hazelnuts and alder buds.

White-tailed Ptarmigan (Lagopus leucurus)
Status: Rare resident. Records from Golden Ears (Panorama Ridge). Probably in other alpine areas in the park, since they are not uncommon in nearby Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Virginia Rail (Rallus limicola)
Status: Casual (summer). One record, June 21, 1974; bird was calling at Mike Lake.

American Coot (Fulica Americana)
Status: Hypothetical. Placed on original (1980) checklist as "rare winter" but these records were undocumented.

Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis)
Status: Casual. One record, March 17, 1985, three birds were seen (and heard) flying over Alouette Lake towards the Pitt Valley.

Killdeer (Charadrius vociferous)
Status: Casual. Two records: the first was on May 1, 1979 (South Beach) and September 30, 1988 (Mike Lake).

Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia)
Status: Uncommon summer, breeds. Most records for Mike Lake, Gold Creek Valley and Alouette Lake.

Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)
Status: Casual. Two records for Mike Lake, both August. One was sitting in front of the Park Headquarters door on December 7, 1987.

Solitary Sandpiper (Tringa solitaria)
Status: Casual migrant. One record, April 25, 1989, Mike Lake.

Ring-billed Gull (Larus delawarensis)
Status: Casual. One record, July 24, 1984, Mike Lake.

Glaucous-winged Gull (L. glaucescens)
Status: Uncommon resident. Most records from Alouette Lake, especially fall and early winter.

Rock Dove (Columba livia)
Status: Casual. One record on July 14, 1977, Alouette Campground.

Band-tailed Pigeon (C. fasciata)
Status: Uncommon resident, breeds. Throughout the park from valley to sub-alpine. Not as common as Dow (1963) noted when he found "flocks" of them.

Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura)
Status: Casual. Records for South Beach and Mike Lake.

Western Screech-owl (Otus kennicottii)
Status: Rare resident; probably breeds. Records for Mike Lake, Spirea Nature Trail, Alouette Campground, Gold Creek Valley.

Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)
Status: Rare resident. Observed at scattered locations: Mike Lake, Alouette Campground, Gold Creek Valley.

Northern Pygmy Owl (Glaucidium gnoma)
Status: Casual. One record, July 15, 1985, near the ticket booth.

Barred Owl (Strix varia)
Status: Rare resident. First recorded in the park in 1975. Visually, one to five records per year; locations include park entrance, Mike Lake, Park Headquarters, Alouette Campground, Spirea Nature Trail and Gold Creek Valley.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus)
Status: Rare resident. Records for Park Headquarters, Mike Lake and Power Line (on main road).

Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor)
Status: Rare summer. Dow (1963) remarked that they were common throughout the Alouette Valley, especially over burns. In recent years, they seem to have been decreasing in numbers. Records for Park Headquarters, Mike Lake, and Alouette Campground.

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger)
Status: Rare summer, probably breeds. Most records for Gold Creek Valley (June to August). One late record at Mike Lake, September 18, 1986.

Vaux's Swift (Chaetura vauxi)
Status: Fairly common summer, probably breeds. Seen throughout the Gold Creek and Alouette Valleys (June - September).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris)
Status: Accidental. One record, Spirea Nature Trail, June 6, 1979.

Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Throughout the park from valley to sub-alpine. Have been observed at the following flowers: salmonberry, vine maple, big-leaf maple, cascara, oregon grape, western (red) columbine, oval leaf huckleberry, salal, black twinberry and false azalea.

Belted Kingfisher (Ceryle alcyon)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Records from Mike Lake, Alouette Lake, Spirea Nature Trail and Gold Creek. Brood seen at Mike Lake in July, 1986. Have been observed feeding on "tadpoles" and stickleback.

Red-breasted Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus ruber)
Status: Fairly common resident; breeds. Numbers appear to fluctuate from year to year. Seen from valley to sub-alpine Western Hemlock preferred "well" treed areas. Nest with young found at Mike Lake, June, 1984. Drumming sites have included an aluminum ladder and diesel oil barrel.

Downy Woodpecker (Picoides pubescens)
Status: Rare resident. Recorded at lower elevations, usually one to three sightings per year. Mike Lake, Alouette Campground.

Hairy Woodpecker (P. villosus)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Dow (1963) only observed this species on "several occasions". It is now the most frequently observed woodpecker in the park, no doubt a reflection of forest successional changes from seral to climax hemlock. Breeding records for Mike Lake, Gold Creek Valley, Alouette Campground.

Three-toed Woodpecker (P. tridactylus)
Status: Rare resident. Found at sub-alpine elevations. Records from Alouette Mountain.

Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)
Status: Rare resident. Most records are from the South Beach and roadsides. More abundant in Dow's (1963) study.

Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus)
Status: Rare resident. Records for park entrance, Spirea Nature Trail, Mike Lake and Alouette Campground.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (Contopus borealis)
Status: Rare summer. Dow (1963) reported this species as "frequently heard in open areas and burns throughout the park". In recent years, (1984 - 1988), sightings have been infrequent. Records are from Evans and Gold Creek Valleys, Spirea Nature Trail, Alder Flats (Golden Ears Trail), South Beach and Mike Lake.

Western Wood Pewee (Contopus sordidulus)
Status: Rare summer. Records for Mike Lake, South Beach, mouth of Raven Creek (Pitt Lake), and Spirea Nature Trail.

Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii)
Status: Rare summer, breeds. Generally distributed throughout the lowlands in coniferous/deciduous habitats.

Hammond's Flycatcher (E. hammondii)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Recorded from valley to sub-alpine elevations.

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher (E. difficilis)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Common throughout the park; Mike Lake, Gold Creek Valley, Alouette Campground.

Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus)
Status: Casual. One record, July 19, 1963, South Beach.

Tree Swallow (Tachycineta bicolor)
Status: Uncommon summer, breeds. Dow (1963) did not observe this species in the park. Most records are for Mike Lake.

Violet-green Swallow (T. thalassina)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Dow (1963) noted "several pairs". By 1975 it was described as "the most common swallow in the park", this status stands today. Frequents open areas at lower elevations, Gold Creek Valley, Alouette Campground, Mike Lake, Park Headquarters. It nests in buildings at headquarters and the ticket booth.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx serripennis)
Status: Uncommon summer, breeds. Not recorded by Dow (1963). Records for Gold Creek Valley and Mike Lake. Nests in banks along Gold Creek and Alouette Lake (near mouth of Gold Creek).

Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Not recorded by Dow (1963), now seen throughout the park's lowlands. Nests in service yard sheds.

Cliff Swallow (H. pyrrhonota)
Status: Rare summer. A few records from Mike Lake.

Gray Jay (Perisoreus canadensis)
Status: Rare resident, breeds. A sub-alpine species, records from Mt. Nutt, Alouette Mountain, Panorama Ride (Golden Ears Trail). Four were seen at Mike Lake on August 11, 1975, considered an unusual lowland occurrence.

Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common throughout the park's lowlands, especially the campgrounds.

Northwestern Crow (Corvus caurinus)
Status: Common resident, breeds. This species has become abundant in recent years, especially in the day-use area. Large winter flocks of up to one thousand birds have been observed flying to night roasts (December 1987).

Common Raven (C. corax)
Status: Uncommon resident, probably breeds. Small numbers seen throughout the year from valley to sub-alpine. Suspected nesting on Evans Peak.

Black-capped Chickadee (Parus atricapillus)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Throughout the lowlands, especially forest edges, campgrounds and Mike Lake.

Mountain Chickadee (P. gambeli)
Status: Casual. Reported by Bowers (1974), no details given.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee (P. rufescens)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Dow (1963) noted that this species was not as frequently encountered as the Black-capped Chickadee. Today, the reverse is true. This is yet another example of how species are affected by forest succession. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee ranges into the sub-alpine, whereas the Black-capped Chickadee is restricted to lowlands.

Boreal Chickadee (P. hudsonicus)
Status: Reported by Bowers (1974); no details.

Bushtit (Psaltriparus minimus)
Status: Rare summer. A few late summer records, at North Beach, Gold Creek Valley and Alouette Campground.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis)
Status: Uncommon resident, breeds. Seen from valley to sub-alpine elevations. Dow (1963) saw fifteen in a single location along the Alouette Mountain Trail.

Brown Creeper (Certhia americana)
Status: Uncommon resident, breeds. Throughout the park at the lowland and sub-alpine levels.

Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii)
Status: Rare, summer, fall. Records for Park Headquarters, Lower Falls Trail, South Beach.

House Wren (Troglodytes aedon)
Status: Casual. One record at Park Headquarters on September 20, 1987.

Winter Wren (T. troglodytes)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Throughout the park at Valley and sub-alpine elevations.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common throughout the park. Often travels in mixed flocks with Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (R. calendula)
Status: Fairly common migrant (spring, fall). Seen throughout lowland elevations. Prefers riparian habitats.

Mountain Bluebird (Sialia currucoides)
Status: Casual fall migrant. One record at Park Headquarters on September 18, 1986.

Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi)
Status: Rare summer, breeds. Several records per summer: South Beach, Mike Lake Road, Gold Creek Valley. Nests in root masses over hanging roadway side banks and creeks.

Swainson's Thrush (Catharus ustulatus)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Common throughout the lowlands, especially forest, trail and stream edges. Especially fond of salmonberry thickets, where it frequently nests.

Hermit Thrush (C. guttatus)
Status: Fairly common migrant, common summer, breeds. Migrates through the lowlands in April and May. In the summer, it replaces Swainson's Thrush at elevations above approximately one thousand metres.

Veery (C. fuscescens)
Status: Casual. One record for Panorama Ridge (Golden Ears Trail) on July 14, 1985.

American Robin (Turdus migratorius)
Status: Common summer, rare resident, breeds. Common throughout the lowlands, especially in areas such as the park entrance and South Beach where lawns provide foraging for worms. In spring migration, up to sixty American Robins have been seen in a single flock. A few may winter here but this depends on the weather conditions.

Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common to both the CWHZ and the CMHZ zones. Winter flocks of fifty or more are sometimes seen along the highway and Mike Lake Road.

American Pipit (Anthus spinoletta)
Status: Casual. One records, Alouette Lake near boat launch, August 10, 1974.

Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Most arrive around mid-May departing by mid-September. Especially common around Mike Lake and the Spirea Nature Trail where they "hawk" for insects and other food items including huckleberries and salmonberries.

Northern Shrike (Lanius excubitor)
Status: Casual winter. Mentioned in several naturalists reports but no details could be found.

European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)
Status: Uncommon summer. First seen in the park in June, 1976. Most records are for South Beach, with a few sightings at Camper's Beach and the boat launch. Does not appear to be increasing in numbers.

Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius)
Status: Rare summer, probably breeds. A few records each summer in the Mike Lake and Alouette Campground areas.

Hutton's Vireo (V. huttoni)
Status: Rare resident, breeds. Records for Mike Lake, Alouette Campground and the park entrance. Nests in roots of blown down trees (like the Winter Wren).

Warbling Vireo (V. gilvus)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Common throughout the lowlands in mixed deciduous/coniferous and riparian habitats.

Red-eyed Vireo (V. olivaceous)
Status: Rare summer. One to two records per summer in the park entrance and Alouette Campground.

Orange-crowned Warbler (Vermivora celata)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Most often arrives in the park about mid-April and departs in early September. Like the vireos, the distribution of this species is closely correlated with the distribution of deciduous tress such as alder, cottonwood, and maple. Can be found at Mike Lake, Gold Creek Valley, Alouette Mountain Trail and Alouette Campground.

Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia)
Status: Rare summer, breeds. Closely associated with riparian habitats, particularly creeks. Have been located at Mike Lake, Alouette Campground, and Gold Creek Valley.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (D. coronata)
Status: Fairly common migrant, rare summer, breeds. Most records for early May to mid-June, a few fall records. All most all are "Audubon's type", but "Myrtle-type" are also seen. The locations that this species can be found are Mike Lake, Spirea Nature Trail, South Beach, North Beach, and Park Headquarters.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (D. nigrescens)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Found throughout the park at lower elevations (CWHZ). At higher elevations (greater than one thousand metres) it is replace by the Townsend's Warbler.

Townsend's Warbler (D. townsendi)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. More commonly seen on migration than as a resident in the lowlands. In the park it is more strongly correlated with coniferous trees than other warblers. "The" warbler of the CMHZ (greater than 1000 metre elevations).

Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis)
Status: Accidental. One record on June 14, 1984, the bird was heard singing at the Spirea Nature Trail.

MacGillivray's Warbler (Oporornis tolmiei)
Status: Rare summer, breeds. A species of forest edges and riparian habitats. Located at Mike Lake, Spirea Nature Trail, and Gold Creek Valley.

Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Found along margins of bogs and lakes. Located at Mike Lake and Spirea Nature Trail.

Wilson's Warbler (Wilsonia pusilla)
Status: Common migrant, fairly common summer, breeds. Commonly seen along forest edges, bushy sites and riparian habitats. In late April to early May, large numbers migrate through here. Mike Lake, Park Headquarters, Alouette Campground, Gold Creek Valley, South Beach and North Beach.

Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Throughout the park's lowlands, especially the campgrounds. A few records for Alouette Mountain (Lake Beautiful area). Observed on several occasions feeding of Red Huckleberry fruit.

Black-head Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Strongly correlated with the distribution of deciduous trees such as Bigleaf Maple and Black Cottonwood. Observed in the areas of Mike Lake, Park Headquarters, Alouette Campground, Gold Creek Valley and South Beach.

Rufous-sided Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus)
Status: Rare summer, breeds. Dow (1963) noted that it was a "common bird throughout the entire Alouette area". Habitat for this species is now limited to road and trail sides and forest edges (usually salmonberry thickets). At the time of Dow's study, towhee habitat was probably more abundant in burns. Here is yet another example of the role of plant succession and its influence on bird habitat.

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina)
Status: Rare summer. Three records: June 5, 1975 and June 4, 1979 at South Beach, and June 1, 1984, behind Park Headquarters (a singing male).

Savannah Sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis)
Status: Rare spring transient. There are two records, one near Park Headquarters on May 11, 1963, and the other for April 28, 1987, at South Beach.

Fox Sparrow (Passerella iliaca)
Status: Rare migrant. Two spring records, May 7, 1984, and April 14, 1985, both at Mike Lake. On July 7, 1985, seven were reported form the Spirea Nature Trail area, an unusual occurrence considering the time of year (sub-alpine nesters).

Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia)
Status: Fairly common resident, breeds. Closely associated with riparian habitats. Has been located at Mike Lake, Gold Creek Valley and Spirea Nature Trail.

Lincoln's Sparrow (M. lincolnii)
Status: Casual. One record for July 11, 1985, at the Spirea Nature Trail (bird was singing).

White-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys)
Status: Common summer, breeds. Closely associated with campgrounds and picnic areas. Has been located at South Beach, the boat launch, Mike Lake and North Beach.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (Z. atricapilla)
Status: Uncommon transient. Small numbers pass through the Park in the Spring and Fall. Has been seen at Mike Lake, South Beach and Gold Creek Valley.

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common in the lowlands throughout the Alouette and Gold Creek Valleys. A few records from sub-alpine elevations (Alouette Mountain, "just below" Panorama Ridge, and the Golden Ears Trail. All fit the description for "Oregon" race.

Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus)
Status: Rare summer. All records for Mike Lake. Usually one to two sightings per summer. Has not nested here since 1973.

Western Meadowlark (Sturnus neglecta)
Status: Casual. One record for June 3, 1978, at the Powerline (off main park highway).

Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)
Status: Casual. Three records, the first during the Summer of 1973 at the "Ridge base of Alouette Mountain" and the others on May 24, 1985, at South Beach.

Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothurus ater)
Status: Fairly common summer, breeds. Common around campgrounds and day use areas. Have been seen at South Beach, Mike Lake, Park Headquarters and North Beach.

Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enuculeator)
Status: One record for May, 1977, a nest was found "under the Alouette Campground water-tower". This is a very unusual occurrence since this species is normally seen in this part of the Fraser Valley in the winter (especially at lower elevations). The observer claimed to be quite familiar with finches and makes a very good case that he did indeed observe a Pine Grosbeak.

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus)
Status: Uncommon resident, breeds. Present throughout the park from lowland to sub-alpine elevations. Observed feeding on cascara and hazelnut buds. Have been seen at Alouette and Gold Creek Campgrounds, the park entrance, Mike Lake, Alouette Mountain and Park Headquarters.

House Finch (C. mexicanus)
Status: Casual. One record for June 2, 1975 at Park Headquarters "feeding on green caterpillars in an alder tree".

Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common throughout the park at both lowland and sub-alpine elevations. Has been seen at Gold Creek Valley, Gold Creek Campground, Alouette Mountain, Mike Lake and Panorama Ridge (Golden Ears Trail).

White-winged Crossbill (L. leucoptera)
Status: Uncommon resident. Not recorded here until July, 1985, when flocks of one hundred or more were seen. Since then, there are usually several sighting per year (usually with Red Crossbills). Have been seen at Alouette and Gold Creek Campgrounds, Mike Lake and Park Headquarters.

Common Redpoll (Carduelis flammea)
Status: Casual. One record for January 26, 1988, when twelve were seen in Red Alders at Park Headquarters.

Pine Siskin (C. pinus)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Strongly associated with Red Alder (seeds are a food source). Seen throughout the park from valley to sub-alpine elevations often in flock of fifty to one hundred. Food items recorded: Red Alder (seeds), Western Hemlock (seeds), dandelion (seeds) and "green caterpillars" (saw-fly larvae?).

American Goldfinch (C. tristis)
Status: Rare summer. Dow (1963) observed this species to be "quite common throughout the summer". It is now seldom seen, except occasionally along roadsides or in open areas such as picnic sites. The American Goldfinch is no doubt another "casualty" of plant succession requiring the "weedy" open sites provided by burns rather than the homogenous stands of hemlock for which the Pine Siskin is so well adapted. Food items recorded include "grass seeds (freshly planted lawn)" and dandelion seed.

Evening Grosbeak (Coccothraustes vespertinus)
Status: Common resident, breeds. Common at both valley and sub-alpine elevations, flocks of thirty or so have often been seen feeding on Bigleaf Maple (buds, flowers and seeds), and cascara (fruit).

BIG DAY, 1985

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK COUNT

BIRD COUNT DAY - JUNE 2, 1985

(In conjunction with National Wildlife Week)

Ten observers spent a total of thirty-five man hours in the field from 0600 - 1630 hours. One party went owling at Mike lake for 1/2 hour at 2000 hours. Areas covered: Mike Lake, Lower Falls Trail, Alouette Campground and Alouette Lake Day Use Area.

This list gives a good idea of the birds of Golden Ears Park at the peak of breeding season.

BIRDS	TOTAL	AREA
Great Blue Heron	2	Mike Lake
Canada Goose	6	Mike Lake
Mallard	Pair	Mike Lake
Osprey	1	Alouette Lake
	1	Mike Lake
Blue Grouse	2	Mike Lake
	1	Lower Falls Trail
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Mike Lake
Barred Owl	1	Mike Lake (heard)
Vaux's Swift	6	Gold Creek Bridge
Rufous Hummingbird	8	Mike Lake, Lower Falls Trail
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Lower Falls Trail
Downy Woodpecker	1	Lower Falls Trail
Western Wood Peewee	2	Mike Lake
Hammond's Flycatcher	2	Lower Falls Trail
Western Flycatcher	2	Lower Falls Trail
Violet Green Swallow	10	Mike Lake
Tree Swallow	2	Mike Lake (not common here)
Rough-winged Swallow	6	Lower Falls Trail
Barn Swallow	12	Mike Lake
Steller's Jay	3	Mike Lake, Alouette Campground
Common Raven	2	Lower Falls Trail
Northwestern Crow	6	Alouette Campground
Black-capped Chickadee	8	Mike Lake, Alouette Campground
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	6	Mike Lake
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Mike Lake
Brown Creeper	1	Alouette Campground

BIRDS	TOTAL	AREA
American Dipper	1	Gold Creek
Winter Wren	4	Mike Lake
	1	Lower Falls Trail
Bewick's Wren	1	Lower Falls Trail
American Robin	6	Lower Falls Trail
Varied Thrush	3	Mike Lake
	4	Lower Falls Trail
Swainson's Thrush	3	Mike Lake
	3	Lower Falls Trail
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	Mike Lake
Warbling Vireo	4	Lower Falls Trail
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Mike Lake
	1	Lower Falls Trail
Yellow Warbler	1	Mike Lake
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	Alouette Campground
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2	Lower Falls Trail
Townsend's Warbler	9	Lower Falls Trail, Mike Lake, Alouette Campground
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	Lower Falls Trail
Yellowthroat	2	Mike Lake
Wilson's Warbler	2	Mike Lake
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	Alouette Campground
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	Mike Lake
Evening Grosbeak	12	Lower Falls Trail
Purple Finch	2	Mike Lake
Pine Siskin	50+	Mike Lake - feeding on Alder seeds
Red Crossbill	12	Mike Lake - feeding on Hemlock seeds
Dark-eyed Junco	9	Mike Lake
Song Sparrow	2	Mike Lake
	1	Lower Falls Trail

A number of species were seen within the count period (three days before and after). These are: Ruffed Grouse, Band-tailed Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Red-eyed Vireo and White-crowned Sparrow.

Total for the day: 49 Species
252 Individuals

BIRD LISTS BY AREA

- **MIKE LAKE: 1963 - 1987**
- **GOLD CREEK AND ALOUETTE CAMPGROUNDS: 1963 - 1987**
- **SPIREA NATURE AREA: 1963 - 1987**
- **GOLD CREEK VALLEY: 1984 - 1988**

BIRDS RECORDED AT MIKE LAKE: 1963 - 1987

BIRD	DATE
Common Loon	
Pied-billed Grebe	
American Bittern	May 17, 1980
Great Blue Heron	
Trumpeter Swan	November 12, 1987
Canada Goose	
Mallard	
Green-winged Teal	May 17, 1980
Wood Duck	
Lesser Scaup	October 13, 1987
Common Goldeneye	
Bufflehead	
Common Merganser	
Hooded Merganser	
Virginia Rail	June 21, 1974
Spotted Sandpiper	
Ring-billed Gull	July 24, 1984
Turkey Vulture	May 11, 1980
Bald Eagle	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Cooper's Hawk	
Red-tailed Hawk	
Osprey	
Merlin	June 7, 1984
Ruffed Grouse	
Blue Grouse	
Ring-necked Pheasant	May 6, 1980
Band-tailed Pigeon	
Great Horned Owl	
Western Screech-owl	
Common Nighthawk	
Black Swift	
Rufous Hummingbird	
Belted Kingfisher	
Northern Flicker	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	
Downy Woodpecker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Western Wood Peewee	
Hammond's Flycatcher	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	
Willow Flycatcher	

BIRD	DATE
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Tree Swallow	
Violet-green Swallow	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
Barn Swallow	
Steller's Jay	
Gray Jay	August 11, 1975
Northwestern Crow	
Common Raven	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Chestnut-sided Chickadee	
Brown Creeper	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Winter Wren	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Swainson's Thrush	
Hermit Thrush	
Varied Thrush	
American Robin	
Cedar Waxwing	
Hutton's Vireo	
Solitary Vireo	
Warbling Vireo	
Orange-crowned Warbler	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	
Townsend's Warbler	
MacGillivray's Warbler	
Yellow Warbler	
Wilson's Warbler	
Common Yellowthroat	
Black-headed Grosbeak	
Rufous-sided Towhee	
Song Sparrow	
Dark-eyed Junco	
White-crowned Sparrow	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	
Fox Sparrow	
Red-winged Blackbird	
Brown-headed Cowbird	
Western Tanager	
Pine Siskin	

BIRD	DATE
Red Crossbill	
White-winged Crossbill	
Purple Finch	
Evening Grosbeak	

A total of 90 species.

BIRDS RECORDED IN GOLD CREEK AND ALOUETTE CAMPGROUNDS: 1963 - 1987

SPECIES	GOLD CREEK	ALOUETTE	DATE
Great Blue Heron		X	
Bald Eagle	X	X	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		X	
Ruffed Grouse		X	
Blue Grouse		X	
Band-tailed Pigeon		X	
Rock Dove		X	July 14, 1977
Great Horned Owl		X	
Western Screech Owl		X	
Common Nighthawk	X	X	
Black Swift	X	X	
Vaux's Swift	X	X	
Rufous Hummingbird	X	X	
Northern Flicker	X	X	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	X	X	
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	
Pileated Woodpecker	X	X	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher		X	
Barn Swallow		X	
Steller's Jay	X	X	
Northwestern Crow	X	X	
Common Raven	X	X	
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	X	X	
Bushtit	X	X	
Brown Creeper	X	X	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	X	X	
Winter Wren	X	X	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	X	X	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X	
Swainson's Thrush	X	X	
Varied Thrush	X	X	
American Robin	X	X	
Cedar Waxwing		X	
European Starling		X	
Hutton's Vireo		X	
Warbling Vireo	X	X	
Orange-crowned Warbler	X	X	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	X	X	
Townsend's Warbler	X	X	
Wilson's Warbler		X	

SPECIES	GOLD CREEK	ALOUETTE	DATE
Black-headed Grosbeak	X	X	
Rufous-sided Towhee	X	X	
Song Sparrow		X	
Dark-eyed Junco	X	X	
Brown-headed Cowbird		X	
Western Tanager	X	X	
Pine Siskin	X	X	
American Goldfinch		X	
Red-Crossbill	X	X	
White-winged Crossbill	X	X	
Pine Grosbeak		X	May, 1977
Purple Finch		X	

A total of 54 species.

BIRDS RECORDED AT SPIREA NATURE AREA: 1963 - 1987

BIRD	DATE
Great Blue Heron	
Wood Duck	
Harlequin Duck	June 20, 1976
Bald Eagle	
Blue Grouse	
Band-tailed Pigeon	
Vaux's Swift	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	June 6, 1979
Rufous Hummingbird	
Belted Kingfisher	
Northern Flicker	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Western Wood Peewee	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Steller's Jay	
Northwestern Crow	
Common Raven	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	
Brown Creeper	
Winter Wren	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Swainson's Thrush	
Hermit Thrush	
Varied Thrush	
Cedar Waxwing	
Orange-crowned Warbler	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	
MacGillivray's Warbler	
Northern Waterthrush	June 14, 1984
Common Yellowthroat	
Song Sparrow	
Lincoln's Sparrow	July 14, 1985
Dark-eye Junco	
Fox Sparrow	
Pine Siskin	
Red Crossbill	
White-winged Crossbill	
Purple Finch	
Evening Grosbeak	

A total of 43 Species.

BIRDS OF GOLD CREEK VALLEY (INCLUDING MOUTH OF CREEK AND NORTH BEACH: 1984 - 1988

BIRD	DATE
Great Blue Heron	
Harlequin Duck	
Common Goldeye	
Common Merganser	
Osprey	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Cooper's Hawk	
Red-tailed Hawk	
Golden Eagle	
Bald Eagle	
Blue Grouse	
Ruffed Grouse	
Spotted Sandpiper	
Glaucous-winged Gull	
Band-tailed Pigeon	
Western Screech Owl	
Barred Owl	
Common Nighthawk	
Black Swift	
Vaux's Swift	
Rufous Hummingbird	
Belted Kingfisher	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	
Downy Woodpecker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Northern Flicker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Hammond's FLycatcher	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	
Tree Swallow	
Violet-green Swallow	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
Barn Swallow	
Steller's Jay	
Northwestern Crow	
Common Raven	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown Creeper	

BIRD	DATE
Bewick's Wren	
Winter Wren	
American Dipper	
Golden Crowned Kinglet	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Townsend's Solitaire	
Swainson's Thrush	
Hermit Thrush	
American Robin	
Varied Thrush	
Cedar Waxwing	
Solitary Vireo	
Hutton's Vireo	
Warbling Vireo	
Orange-crowned Warbler	
Yellow Warbler	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Townsend's Warbler	
MacGillivray's Warbler	
Wilson's Warbler	
Western Tanager	
Black-headed Grosbeak	
Rufous-sided Towhee	
Fox Sparrow	
Song Sparrow	
White-crowned Sparrow	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	
Dark-eyed Junco	
Brown-headed Cowbird	
Purple Finch	
Red Crossbill	
Pine Siskin	
Evening Grosbeak	

A total of 78 species.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER STUDY

1988

THE RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER IN GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

The Red-breasted Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus ruber) is a characteristic woodpecker of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone (Krajina, 1969) but is also found in the Coastal Mountain Hemlock and Coastal Douglas Fir Zones. It, like other members of the Genus Sphyrapicus, has a specialized tongue described as "brush-like" rather than the barbed tongue of other Picidea. This adaptation allows sapsuckers to "drink" sap, a product rich in sugars[1]. The term sapsucker is really not as accurate as "sapsiper". In Golden Ears Provincial Park, the Red-breasted Sapsucker is a resident in both the Coastal Western Hemlock and Coastal Mountain Hemlock zones. In winter there seems to be a definite downward "migration" from higher elevations to lower elevations. (Grass, A., Pers. obs.).

In 1988, extensive field notes were kept of the sapsuckers feeding preferences. There was no opportunity to set up formal studies so that data collected is of an opportunistic nature. In spite of this limitation, some useful insights into the feeding habits of the Red-breasted Sapsucker were obtained.

From field notes, five feeding strategies were identified:

1. well-excavating for sap
2. well-excavating for cambium
3. gleaning
4. flycatching ("hawking")
5. fruit

Whenever encountered, well excavations were noted. No attempt was made to distinguish between "new" and "old" wells, as it was not deemed necessary or practical to do so.

Seventy-two trees were noted as the sapsucker worked:

Western Hemlock	(Tsuga heterophylla)	52
Western White Birch (Paper Birch)	(Betula papyrifera)	10
Douglas Fir	(Pseudotsuga menziesii)	5 (young trees)
Red Alder	(Alnus rubra)	2
Cascara	(Rhamnus purshiana)	2
Red Cedar	(Thuja plicata)	1

It is important to recognize that not all wells observed were for sap feeding. Excavating is also done to feed on "inner bark" or cambium. Wells created for cambium feeding were not as "neat" as those for sap feeding. Sometimes areas as large as 75 mm x 100 mm were removed in contrast to the neat rows of holes usually associated with sap wells. Bent (1939) comments that sixty-seven species of fruit, forest and ornamental trees have been tapped by the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Out of sixty-four stomachs examined, 40.7% contained vegetable food (31.35% was cambium) (Bent, 1939).

Gleaning was noted on several occasions and is defined as patrolling and probing into bark fissures for insects and spiders. A sapsucker was also observed probing under the bark scales of a Sitka Spruce, in a manner not unlike the Three-toed Woodpecker (Picides tridactylus).

Flycatching was observed in late spring and early summer when carpenter ants[2] and termites[3] take to the air. Bent (1939) mentions that sixty-four stomachs examined, 52.53% contained animal food of which ants formed 80%. Other insect food items cited were boring beetles, weevils, caddisflies, aphids, mites, flies and spiders.

Fruit was consumed on three occasions: red huckleberries (Vaccinium parvifolium)(2), and salmonberries (Rubus spectabilis)(1). Bent (1939) writes "...they are particularly fond of strawberries". He also notes that "fruit averaged less than 4% of the food and included elderberries, wild cherries, hawthorn and dogwood berries". They have observed them feeding on ripe salal (Gaulteria shallon) fruit (Grass A., Pers. Obs.). Fruits and seeds do not seem to be important items in the diet of the sapsucker in Golden Ears Provincial Park.

Conclusions drawn from field observations are that (1) the western hemlock is the most important tree species to the sapsucker both for sap and for cambium (73.3%). While this is certainly the most abundant tree in the park, its use may also be a function of the thinness of hemlock bark, and the sugar content of sap[4]. (2) Insects are utilized extensively and are obtained from flycatching and gleaning. (3) Fruits and seeds do not seem to form a major part of the sapsucker's diet.

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FOOTNOTES:

1. An unsuccessful attempt was made to obtain an analysis of hemlock sap for sugar content. The term "rich in sugars" is often applied to Western Hemlock sap, but the writer was unable to obtain anything concrete.

2. Carpenter Ant (Camponotus, sp.).

3. Pacific Damp-wood Termite (Zootermopsis angusticollis).

4. It has also been suggested that amino acids may be of some importance.

A) It is interesting to note that Martin, et al. (1951) did not mention Tsuga sap in their list of "sapsucker trees"; Genera listed were: Pinus, Larix, Abies, Juniperus, Fraxinus and Quercus.

B) Casual observations indicate that the age (and therefore the callousness and thickness of the bark) are important factors in sap-well/cambium tree selection). Western Hemlock retains a relatively thin bark throughout its life whereas Douglas-fir bark becomes thick and corky (good for gleaning, but not for sap feeding).

HUMMINGBIRD NOTES

HUMMINGBIRD NOTES

Observations of the flowers utilized by the Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus) in Golden Ears Provincial Park.

From 1984 - 1988, the author kept extensive field notes on bird observations in Golden Ears Provincial Park because time and circumstances did not allow for the setting up of more formal studies. The data presented here are opportunistic in nature. However, some useful insights are still to be gained by reviewing these records. One of these is the use of flowers by the Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus).

Hummingbirds arrive at Golden Ears Provincial Park in early April, about the time plant flowering begins, with Salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis) and Oval-leaved Blueberry (Vaccinium ovalifolium) as two of the earliest species.

During the five year period, fifteen plants were observed as utilized by the Rufous Hummingbird either as a primary nectar source (PNS) or a primary protein source (PPS). Protein is generally taken to mean insects, however, spiders and mites are also taken (Grass A., pers. obs.). Rufous Hummingbird will hover at spider webs (orb-weavers such as Araneus or Tetragnatha) and pick out the trapped flies and even the smaller spiders (Grass A., pers. obs.).

The contribution of pollen to net protein ingestion was not observable and is something for which no comment can be made.

Reference to Table 1, shows that of the fifteen flowers at which hummingbird activity, only three were red. Plants designated PPS often have flowers with a "musty" odour which attract small flies. There can be no doubt that some flowers provide both high energy nectar as well as protein, but in the case of a PPS, I did not observe nectar sipping, only flycatching.

These observations while preliminary and speculative, do offer a few interesting glimpses into Rufous Hummingbird feeding behaviour.

TABLE 1
Rufous Hummingbird Flowers in Golden Ears Park: 1984 - 1988

Species	Common Name	Colour	PNS	PPS	Comments (N = Number of sightings)
Ribes sanguineum	Red Flowering Currant	R	X		N=3
Rubus spectabilus	Salmonberry	R	X		N=46
Aquilegia formosa	Red Columbine	R	X		N=12 red flowers with yellow centres
Rhamnus purshiana	Cascara	W		X	N=1 "hawking" small flies
Vaccinium ovalifolium	Oval-leafed Blueberry	W	X		N=12
Vaccinium parvifolium	Red Huckleberry	W	X		N=3
Acer macrophyllum	Bigleaf Maple	W	X	X	N=2 "hawking" small flies
Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	W	X	?	N=3
Viburnum edule	Highbush Cranberry	W	X		N=1
Malus fusca	Pacific Crabapple	W		X	N=1 "small flies"
Prunus emarginata	Bitter Cherry	W		X	N=2 "small flies"
Ledum groenlandicum	Labrador Tea	W	?	X	N=1 "hawking" small flies
Mahonia, spp	Oregon Grape	Y	X	X	N=8 "a duel-flower"
Lonicera Involucrata	Black Twinberry	Y	X		N=14
Menziesia ferruginea	False Azalea	Brown	?	?	N=2

R = Red W = White or Cream Y = Yellow B = Brown (in this case "Bronze")

PNS and PPS were noted and recorded only when nectar feeding and/or insect feeding (usually "hawking" were observed). Source: Grass, A. Field notes, 1984-1988.

WATERFOWL NOTES

WATERFOWL NOTES FROM GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

From 1984 - 1988, the author kept extensive field notes on bird observations in Golden Ears Provincial Park. The first systematic account of the Park's avian fauna was the work of Dow (1963). Records maintained by park naturalists from 1974 - 1984 also contributed to this report, providing useful insights into park-specific ornithological questions. Seasonal variations in numbers and comparative habitat utilization are but two of such "glimpses".

Golden Ears Provincial Park is a vast area covering more than 54,000 hectares, much of it unknown from the flora and fauna standpoint. This simply reflects access problems, so that the only parts of the park for which extensive field observations are available, are the Gold Creek and Alouette Valleys.

Two essentially different lake habitats are available to waterfowl:

1) Mike Lake - a small eutrophic lake, with a well developed shore-zone vegetation;
2) Alouette Lake - a large deep, steep walled lake with no shore-zone vegetation to speak of.

It is not surprising that most of the park's waterfowl records centre on Mike Lake. The only species of ducks which regularly use Alouette Lake are the Common Merganser (Mergus merganser) and the common Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula); dabbling ducks are seldom seen here. Of the fourteen species of waterfowl on the park checklist, five have been observed on Alouette Lake and ten on Mike Lake. Two species regularly breed in the park, the Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) and the Canada Goose (Branta canadensis). The Wood Duck (Aix sponsa) and the Common Merganser (Mergus merganser) also breed here but not every year. There is one record of a Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola) nesting at Mike Lake. Approximately 85% of the observations are for the period of October through April, with the peak occurring in late Winter (February, March). Reference to the Mike Lake Waterfowl Calendar will give a good idea of the seasonal occurrence of waterfowl species in the park.

In summary, while Golden Ears Provincial Park does not have prime waterfowl habitat; the importance of what little there is, is highlighted by the fact that the small eutrophic Mike Lake accounts for the vast majority of both wintering and breeding species.

MIKE LAKE WATERFOWL CALENDAR

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Trumpeter Swan											X	
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X̲	X̲	X̲	X	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck				X	X	X̲	X	X	X	X		
Mallard	X	X	X	X	X̲	X̲	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Duck				X[B]								
Lesser Scaup				X[A]						X		
Common Goldeneye	X	X	X	X						X	X	X
Bufflehead	X	X	X	X	X̲					X	X	X
Hooded Merganser	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Common Merganser	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
Common Loon					X	X	X		X			
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X	X	X	X̲	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

A: Pair was seen on April 13, 1989
B: A male was seen on April 4, 1989

X: Sighting
X̲: Young observed.

SOURCE: Grass, A. Field Notes (1984 - 1988)

BIRD NOTES - 1988

DAILY LISTS: USEFUL IN OBTAINING A GOOD IDEA OF SPECIES BY AREA AND SEASON. FOR EXAMPLE, "WHAT" IS "WHERE" ON A GIVEN DAY.

GOLDEN EARS BIRD NOTES - 1988

February 17th, 1988
Location: South Beach
Weather: Light Rain.

Red Crossbill	50+
Pine Siskin	30
Bald Eagle	1
Common Raven	1
Northwestern Crow	14
Steller's Jay	1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6
Winter Wren	1
Evening Grosbeak	12
Varied Thrush	2
American Robin	1

February 23rd, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Hooded Merganser	1 M
Common Merganser	1 P
Canada Goose	1 P
Great Blue Heron	1
Red-crossbill	20+
Winter Wren	1
Varied Thrush	3
Belted Kingfisher	1

February 24th, 1988
Location: Alouette Campground
Weather:

Red Crossbill	60+
Varied Thrush	5
Winter Wren	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Common Raven	2

March 1st, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Hooded Merganser	2 M
Common Merganser	2 M
	4 F
Bufflehead	1 P
Canada Goose	4
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Belted Kingfisher	1 F
Song Sparrow	1

March 12th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Bald Eagle	2
Winter Wren	1
Red Crossbill	100+
Pine Siskin	60+
Varied Thrush	12
American Robin	3
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	6
Dark-eyed Junco	2

March 17th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Ruffed Grouse	1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	1
Winter Wren	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Varied Thrush	3
American Robin	2

March 18th, 1988
Location: Park Entrance
Weather:

Hairy Woodpecker	1
Common Raven	1
Pine Siskin	3
Purple Finch	1
Winter Wren	1
Varied Thrush	2
American Robin	4
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	4
Red Crossbill	20

March 18th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Mallard	1	P
Canada Goose	1	P
Belted Kingfisher	1	F
Bufflehead	1	M

March 19th, 1988
Location: Park Entrance
Weather:

Red-breasted Sapsucker	1	M
Ruffed Grouse	1	
Bald Eagle	1	

March 30th, 1988
Location: Alouette Campground
Weather: Cloudy and cool 5°

Hairy Woodpecker	1
American Robin	22
Black-capped Chickadee	4
Brown Creeper	1
Red Crossbill	30+
Dark-eyed Junco	32
Winter Wren	1
Common Raven	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	3

March 30th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Barred Owl	1	P

April 2nd, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather: Cool, rainy 5°

Wood Duck	1	M
Common Merganser	2	M
	1	F
Fox Sparrow	1	
Song Sparrow	2	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1	M
Hairy Woodpecker	1	M
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	
Winter Wren	2	
Varied Thrush	5	
American Robin	3	
Dark-eyed Junco	8	

April 2nd, 1988
Location: Lower Falls Trail
Weather: Cool, rainy 5°

Blue Grouse	1	

April 9th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Mallard	1	P
Bufflehead	1	P
Belted Kingfisher	1	M

April 9th, 1988
Location: Spirea Bog
Weather:

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	
Wood Duck	1	F

April 9th, 1988
Location: Power Line
Weather:

Red-tailed Hawk	1	

April 11th, 1988
Location: South Beach
Weather:

White-crowned Sparrow	2	
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	M
	1	F
Rufous Hummingbird	1	M
Canada Goose	7	
Common Raven	1	
Dark-eyed Junco	12	
Northern Flicker	1	
Pine Siskin	50	+
American Robin	60	+
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	
Red Crossbill	8	
Downy Woodpecker	1	M
Steller's Jay	1	
Northwestern Crow	20	

April 11th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Canada Goose	2	
Belted Kingfisher	1	
Bufflehead	1	P
Common Merganser	1	F
Winter Wren	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	

April 11th, 1988
Location: Park Entrance
Weather:

Pileated Woodpecker	2	
Purple Finch	1	
Varied Thrush	2	

April 17th, 1988
Location: Alouette Campground
Weather:

Ruffed Grouse	1	
Rufous Hummingbird	2	
Common Raven	1	
Northwestern Crow	3	
Steller's Jay	1	

April 17th, 1988 Location: Alouette Campground Weather:	
American Robin	1
Varied Thrush	2
Winter Wren	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
Dark-eyed Junco	6
Hairy Woodpecker	1

April 17th, 1988 Location: Spirea Bog Weather:	
Wood Duck	1 P

April 19th, 1988 Location: Park Headquarters Weather:	
Barn Swallow	2

April 23rd, 1988 Location: North Beach Weather:	
Horned Grebe	1

April 28th, 1988 Location: South Beach Weather:	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	4
White-crowned Sparrow	8
American Robin	20
Canada Goose	2
Steller's Jay	1

April 28th, 1988 Location: Mike Lake Weather:	
Osprey	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Song Sparrow	1
Canada Goose	1
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1 M
Rufous Hummingbird	1 M

May 1st, 1988 Location: Mike Lake Weather:	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	2
Rufous Hummingbird	2 M
Hutton's Vireo	1
Song Sparrow	1
Varied Thrush	2
American Robin	3
Canada Goose	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Osprey	1

May 1st, 1988 Location: Mike Lake (Cont.) Weather:	
Tree Swallow	1
Pine Siskin	3
Bufflehead	3 M
	2 F

May 2nd, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Cooper's Hawk	1

May 3rd, 1988
Location: Park Entrance
Weather:

Hermit Thrush	1
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	1
Winter Wren	1
American Robin	6

May 13th, 1988
Location: Boat Launch
Weather:

Spotted Sandpiper	1

May 13th, 1988
Location: South Beach
Weather:

Yellow-rumped warbler	1	
Steller's Jay	1	
Evening Grosbeak	12	
Common Raven	2	
Swainson's Thrush	1	
Warbling Vireo	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	M

May 13th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Rufous-sided Towhee	1

May 15th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather: Cool, morning

Wilson's Warbler	2	M
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	M
Warbling Vireo	2	

May 15th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Common Yellowthroat	1

May 15th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather: Mild, afternoon

Western Tanager	1
Black-throated Gray Wabler	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Warbling Vireo	2
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	2
Wilson's Warbler	2
Winter Wren	1
American Robin	3
Swainson's Thrush	1
Violet-green Swallow	20
Barn Swallow	10

May 24th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

MacGillivray's Warbler	1
Warbling Vireo	2
Wilson's Warbler	

May 27th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Red-eyed Vireo	1

May 28th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Vaux's Swift	2
Warbling Vireo	3
Barn Swallow	8
Violet-green Swallows	12
Evening Grosbeak	20

May 30th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather: Sunny, 20°

Rufous Hummingbird	2
Western Wood Pewee	2
Violet-green Swallow	20
Tree Swallow	4
Rough-winged Swallow	3
Common Raven	1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
American Robin	4
Swainson's Thrush	3
Warbling Vireo	5
MacGillivray's Warbler	2
Common Yellowthroat	2
Wilson's Warbler	2
Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Red Crossbill	12
Dark-eyed Junco	2
Song Sparrow	1
Canada Goose	56

June 5th, 1988
Location: West Canyon Trail
Weather:

Blue Grouse	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Hammond's Flycatcher	1
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	2
Barn Swallow	8
Warbling Vireo	6
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2
MacGillivray's Warbler	1

June 6th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Band-tailed Pigeon	2

June 16th, 1988
Location: Spirea Nature Trail
Weather:

Pileated Woodpecker	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Vaux's Swift	2

June 16th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

MacGillivray's Warbler	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Swainson's Thrush	3
American Robin	2
Black-throated Gray Warbler	2
Winter Wren	1
Dark-eyed Junco	3
Warbling Vireo	4

June 25th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Great Blue Heron	1
Canada Goose	4
Rufous Hummingbird	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1
Willow Flycatcher	1
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	3
Violet-green Sparrow	20
Tree Swallow	6
Steller's Jay	1
Winter Wren	2
Swainson's Thrush	5
Warbling Vireo	2
Black-throated Gray Warbler	3
Yellowthroat	3
Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Song Sparrow	2

June 29th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake Road
Weather:

Barred Owl	1

July 7th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Osprey	1
Violet-green Swallow	2
Song Sparrow	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
Common Yellowthroat	2

July 7th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake (Cont.)
Weather:

Tree Swallow	2
American Robin	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	3
Black-headed Grosbeak	1

July 7th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake (Cont.)
Weather:

Canada Goose	2	
Winter Wren	2	
Swainson's Thrush	2	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	P
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	
Warbling Vireo	1	
Wilson's Warbler	1	
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	1	
Common Raven	1	
Willow Flycatcher	1	
Rufous Hummingbird	1	
Rough-winged Swallow	1	

July 10th, 1988
Location: Spirea Trail Viewpt
Weather:

Band-tailed Pigeon	1
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1
Swainson's Thrush	2
American Robin	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2

August 9th, 1988
Location: Spirea Nature Trail
Weather:

Barred Owl	1

August 19th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Common Loon	1
Pine Siskin	20
Evening Grosbeak	10
Black-capped Chickadee	5
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15
Winter Wren	1
American Robin	2
Cedar Waxwing	6
Common Yellowthroat	2
Steller's Jay	1
Song Sparrow	2

August 25th, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Screech Owl	1

August 25th, 1988
Location: Interpretation Area
Weather:

Barred Owl	1

August 31st, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Varied Thrush	2
Swainson's Thrush	1
Steller's Jay	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Common Yellowthroat	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Winter Wren	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
American Robin	1
Red Crossbill	1

October 1st, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Common Merganser	2	M
Common Raven	1	
Evening Grosbeak	20	
Song Sparrow	3	

October 1st, 1988
Location: Park Headquarters
Weather:

Ruffed Grouse	1

October 9th, 1988
Location: Alouette Campground
Weather:

Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	2	
Black-capped Chickadee	3	
Steller's Jay	1	
Common Raven	1	
Winter Wren	2	
Varied Thrush	12	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	
Evening Grosbeak	30	
Ruffed Grouse	1	
Pine Siskin	20	+

October 12th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Cooper's Hawk	1
Common Raven	1
Winter Wren	2
Evening Grosbeak	12

October 16th, 1988
Location: Mike Lake
Weather:

Pied-billed Grebe	2

NOTES ON WOODY PLANT UTILIZATION BY BIRDS IN THE GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

WOODY PLANT UTILIZATION BY BIRDS IN THE GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

This report presents a list of selected plants and is intended to aid in the appreciation of the wildlife values of park vegetation, insofar as it relates to birds. Comments are based on field notes kept by the author, 1984 - 1988, and while opportunistic in nature, do offer useful insights into plant/bird relationships. At best, we can be alerted to the fact that these complex interactions are a real and dynamic part of the park's ecology - something which should have management implications. The important fact that emerges is that these are often two-way relationships, with both the bird and plant benefiting, ie. transportation of seed or "control" of potential insect "pests".

Birds utilize plants in a number of important ways:

1) feed on plant such as fruits or buds
2) feed on insects, etc. found on foliage and in wood (live and dead trees)
3) use trees and shrubs for nesting sites
4) obtain cover, both shelter form weather and escape for predators.

In some cases, the relationship may not be readily apparent. For example, Bigleaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum) leaf litter provide better foraging for Ruffed Grouse in the park, than hemlock leaf litter which from my experience has a comparatively poor invertebrate fauna (Grass, A. per. obs.).

Dead trees or "snags" must also be considered here since they provide feeding/nesting/shelter opportunities for a wide variety of the park's birds.

PLANT LIST

Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)

Several finches in the park utilize the seeds as food, including the Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin. Blue Grouse feed on the staminate ("male") cones as well as the needles. Many species such as the chickadees nuthatches, creepers and woodpeckers, glean insects and spiders from the rough, deeply furrowed bark of the older trees.

Amabilis Fir (Abies amabilis)

This is primarily a sub-alpine tree in the park. Its chief importance is that of shelter for species such as Blue Grouse in winter. Blue Grouse consume needles and Red Crossbills consume seeds.

Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis)

Red Crossbills have been observed feeding on seeds.

Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla)

Seeds are an important item in the diet of the Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill and Purple Finch. The Blue Grouse and Ruffed Grouse utilize both needles and buds. Moth larvae (notably loopers - geometridae) are gleaned from the foliage by Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, Townsend's Warblers and Golden-crowned Kinglets. It is the most important source of sap and cambium tissue for the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Creepers regularly patrol the bark, probing into fissures for insects and spiders.

Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata)

Pine Siskin have been observed feeding on seeds (winter). Good dense cedars are excellent roosting trees for Saw-whet and Screech-owls, as well as chickadees, kinglets and other small birds. Older trees and snags are often full of carpenter ants (Camponotus, sp), a food source of the Pileated Woodpecker, Black Cottonwood (Populus balsamifera van trichocarpa).

Buds are sometimes eaten by Ruffed Grouse. The bark of alder trees is heavily furrowed and thus offers good sheltering sites for insects and spiders, and the Hairy Woodpecker capitalizes on this. Other species frequently recorded foraging on Cottonwood Bark include the Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee and Brown Creeper. Cottonwood down (seed "fluff") is a frequent component of bird nests (especially warblers such as the Yellow Warbler). Dead cottonwoods are favoured by cavity nesting species.

Willows (Salix, spp.)

Larvae of sawflies (Hymenoptera) are eaten by warblers, vireos and chickadees who are often seen foraging in these shrubs. Willow down provides nesting material (especially for lining) for Rufous Hummingbirds and Yellow Warblers.

Red Alder (Alnus rubra)

Buds and catkins are eaten by the Ruffed Grouse. Seeds are a

favourite of the Pine Siskin. Foliage is gleaned for insect larvae by chickadees, vireos and warblers. The warbling vireo seems to have a special relationship with this tree in the park. That is, there is a strong correlation between the distribution of the bird with the tree (a detail deserving close study).

Hazelnut (Corylus, sp.)

Ruffed Grouse have been observed feeding on the buds in winter on numerous occasions.

Mistletoe (Arceuthobium, sp.)

Grows as a parasite on Western Hemlock. Fruit is utilized by the Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Band-tailed Pigeon, Varied Thrush and Blue Grouse. Birds are no doubt an important method by which the sticky seeds are carried from tree to tree. This interesting association warrants close investigation.

Oregon Grape (Mahonia nervosa)

Rufous Hummingbirds are often seen feeding at the flowers. Cedar Waxwings and robins sometimes eat the fruit, but it does not seem to be a "favourite".

Currants and Gooseberries (Ribes, spp.)

Red-flowering currant (R. sanguineum) is frequently visited by Rufous Hummingbirds. Fruits of Ribes are no doubt eaten by birds, but I have not observed it.

Hardhack (Spiraea Douglasii)

An important shelter, nesting and escape cover shrub growing in sites for the Common Yellowthroat and Song Sparrow.

Pacific Crab-apple (Malus fusca)

Robins, Waxwings and Band-tailed pigeons have been seen eating the fruit.

Mountain-ashes (Sorbus, sp.)

In the sub-alpine areas of the park, Band-tailed Pigeons have been observed on numerous occasions feeding on the fruit. S. aucuparia a European species of Mountain Ash has been introduced into the park through seeds in bird droppings.

Indian Plum (Oemleria cerasiformis)

Fruits are eaten by robins and no doubt other species, but this shrub is not common in the park.

Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus)

Fruit is consumed by a wide variety of birds including the American Robin, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Thrush and Cedar Waxwing. Bushes provide good cover and nesting sites.

Salmonberry (R. spectabilis)

An important shrub for park birds. Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, Ruffed Grouse have been seen eating fruit. The bushes (thickets) are excellent shelter and escape cover. The Rufous-sided Towhee and Varied Thrush are often seen scratching around in the salmonberry leaf litter. Flowers are frequently visited by the Rufous Hummingbird.

Rubus, sp.

Other species include trailing Blackberry (R. ursinus) and Blackcap (R. leucodermis). They are not abundant but robins, waxwings, towhees and Ruffed Grouse seldom pass up the fruit. I have observed robins squabbling over blackcaps.

Bitter Cherry (Prunus emarginata)

Robins, waxwings and Band-tailed Pigeons utilize the fruit, but it is not abundant.

Bigleaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum)

In April, the newly opened flower buds are eaten by Evening Grosbeaks, who are also fond of the "seeds" (samaras). Foliage harbours large number of insects which attract warblers and vireos. The rough bark also provides good foraging for creepers, chickadees and nuthatches. Vine maple (A. circinatum) does not have the same wildlife values as Bigleaf Maple, but Evening Grosbeaks have been observed feeing on the seeds.

Cascara (Rhamnus purshiana)

The berries are consumed by robins, Cedar Waxwings and Band-tailed Pigeons. On several occasions, Rufous Hummingbirds have been observed at the flowers (possibly feeding on small flies around the flower).

Devil's Club (Oplopanax horridus)

The scarlet fruits are eaten by Swainson's Thrushes, American Robins, and Band-tailed Pigeons.

Bunchberry (Cornus canadensis)

Both Blue and Ruffed Grouse are fond of its fruit.

Cornus, sp.

Two additional dogwoods occur in the park. C. stolonifera (C. sericia) and C. nuttallii. The former is found in wet sites such as lakes and stream margins. Its white fruits are eaten by the Purple Finch, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Flicker, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes. Ruffed Grouse and Band-tailed Pigeons have been observed feeding on buds. The same comments apply to C. nuttallii with the additional comment that the fruits of this species are a particular favourite of the Band-tailed Pigeon.

Salal (Gaultheria shallon)

A universal favourite of fructivorous birds including Swainson's and Varied Thrush, Blue Grouse and Ruffed Grouse. On one occasion Steller's Jays were seen eating berries.

Vaccinium, spp.

Several species of blueberries/huckleberries occur in the park, including V. parvifolium (red-fruited) and V. ovalifolium (blue-fruited). Both are heavily utilized by birds including the Blue Grouse, Ruffed Grouse and the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Flowers are visited by the Rufous Hummingbird, especially the later species.

Twinflower (Linnaea borealis)

Ruffed Grouse have been observed feeding upon its evergreen leaves during the winter.

Black Twinberry (Lonicera involucrata)

Rufous Hummingbirds visit the flowers. The only birds seen feeding on the fruits so far, have been the American Robin and Cedar Waxwing.

Red Elderberry (Sambucus callicarpa)

There is a long list of species that consume its fruit including the American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and the Band-tailed Pigeon.

High-bush Cranberry (Viburnum edule)

The rather acidic fruits do not seem to be a particular favourite of birds, but Swainson's Thrush and American Robin have both been observed eating them.

In summary, woody plants provide birds with their basic needs for survival - cover, food, nesting sites, etc. The diversity of bird life in the park is in no small way a reflection of how well these needs are met. Understanding these has broad management implications in the maintenance of avian diversity in the park.

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